

QUESTION RE DESTRUCTION OF EARTH AND HEAVEN
by Willis E. Bishop

Q. Why does it say there is a new Heaven and a new Earth "for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away"?

I don't think they will be destroyed. Here is a case again where I do not follow the general pattern of interpretation. Heaven and Earth will be new in the sense of renewed and not in the sense of totally new.

Turn to Hebrews 1:10: And thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou remainest; and they shall all become old as doth a garment. And as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed [or altered]. But Thou art the same and Thy years fail not.

I illustrate with a coat. You take it off and put another coat on. That is the way it is described in Hebrews 1.

Another argument is Abraham at Hebron. The Lord said, "You look as far north as you can see and as far south as you can see. Abraham, I will give this land to you and to your descendants FOREVER." If the Lord disintegrates that land then God breaks His word to Abraham, and God doesn't do that. That promise was repeated to Jacob and Isaac.

II Peter chapter 3 is quite often referred to, but I think I can show that it ties in better with Hebrews 1 and the promises made to those Old Testament saints than it does to have the Earth disintegrate and a completely new one built. It will be new in the sense of being renewed.

Q. You are saying that even in eternity that area will belong to the descendants of Abraham?

A. That's right. It will be their land forever.

Q. Will the Jews still be God's chosen people?

A. Yes. He makes a new covenant with them -- Jeremiah 31. He gives them a new heart and spirit.

Q. "Hath He put off His people forever" -- where is that?

A. Romans 8, 9, 10 and 11. The Jews are an olive tree, we as the Gentiles have been grafted in as a wild olive tree (which brings forth wild fruit and it gets cut out and the good olive tree keeps going). Or, as Paul says in that same area, it will be like bringing a dead man to life when Israel is turned to the Lord. The Jews are in an eternal covenant with the Lord.

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